

# Indiana State Sentinel.

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[Volume VII: Number 43]

## The Corporation Wood Law.

On the 25th ult. we published the official copy of the miniature Tariff ordinance, which the Whig City Council, in their superlative wisdom, saw fit to pass for the protection of the purchasers of wood. The law goes into effect on the first of May,—it should have been the first of April,—“all fool’s day.” And as our readers may possibly not remember all the requirements of it, we give the following concise synopsis of the law.

Sec. 1, provides that all vehicles used for carrying wood, from a six-horse team down to a wheelbarrow, shall proceed on their arrival in town, to one of the four specified “camp grounds,” where they shall be drawn up in marsh array, and await the orders of the Inspectors General, who will act under the authority of the City Council, under the title of “duly authorized measurers of wood.”

Sec. 2, prescribes that all fire wood offered for sale shall be of three specified lengths,—to-wit: two feet, three and a half feet, or four feet in length, (to accommodate the different varieties of cooking stoves;) and further, that it shall be unlawful for fire wood to be sold otherwise than by the cord, and that cord is to be officially measured and certified to by the “proper officer.” [If less than a cord be bought or sold, both parties will be liable to be fined \$10.]

Sec. 3, provides that all persons bringing wood for sale shall give their names to the city inspector or his deputy. They are to judge of these functionaries—especially of the deputy,—by “the cut of their jib” and if they refuse to obey this reasonable requirement, they are to be whipped or “put in quod,” at the discretion of the “City Council,” and “as the case may require.”

Sec. 4, provides that the City Council shall appoint four “collectors of the port,” or Measurers, to be stationed at the stands aforesaid, whose duty it shall be to measure and inspect all fire wood brought to said stands. The fees of measurers, at the rate of half a dime a load, to be paid by the sellers of the wood.

Sec. 5. Any person offending against any of the provisions of the ordinance, is declared liable to a fine of from one to ten dollars, with “costs of suit,”—i. e., lawyers fees, &c. This we suppose includes both seller and buyer.

If this law shall be carried into execution, our farmers, who bring wood to town for sale, will have a small chance of learning the immediate practical benefits of a protective Tariff. And those who buy wood will also learn how much cheaper they can get it, under such a system of restriction, than under a system of free trade. If the farmers are wise, and bring wood for sale at all, they will charge the purchaser not only the additional inspection fee, but for the time they will be obliged to fool away at the “stands.”

Seriously, this wood law is an arrant humbug, and nothing else; and the city council ought every one of them to be soundly spanked for making it. Strange how exceedingly foolish men will act who are clothed with a little brief authority! What do the people of this town or county want of such a law? Are they incapable of buying or selling a load of wood, except under the direction of guardians? If so, the probate court should take the business in hand, or the whole crowd should be sent to the Insane Hospital.

But the people are not such fools. They are as capable of transacting this kind of kitchen business as ever, and the enactment of the council is unequalled for and absurd in the highest degree.

There is no excuse for the Council, except that they wanted to create three or four more offices, in which to install loafers who are too lazy to work.

It is a shame that we are every day enacting some such foolish law, which has been exploded in the eastern States and municipal corporations, after years and years of trial. It is because we have so many dough-heads to legislate for us, who think it necessary to do something to exhibit their smartness.

If we have a public wood inspection at all, it should be voluntary, at the option of both buyer and seller,—but not compulsory, as this foolish ordinance provides.

We hope the Council will be brought to a sense of their folly, and that they will change the character of the law at once.

## New Patent Door Plates.

Dr. D. P. HUNT and Wm. ROSSON, well known citizens of this town, have purchased the right to use and sell, in this State, a newly patented Door Plate, which is useful, handsome and cheap. Specimens may be seen upon the doors of D. Craighead, Esq., of the junior editor of this paper, and some others, as well as at the office of Dr. Hunt, near the Governor’s circle. It would be a great convenience to inhabitants of houses in town, and those seeking for the residences of others, if these plates would come into general use. Time and trouble would be saved to all parties. The cheapness of the plate brings it within the means of nearly every one, and its beauty as well as usefulness, should make it desirable. One thing in particular proves the economy of this plate: names originally placed in it, may be easily removed and be replaced by another, in metal letters, at a very trifling expense,—whereas the old, engraved plates were generally useless to any but the one for whom they were prepared.

The gentlemen above named will not only furnish various sizes of these Plates to individuals of this and neighboring towns, but will sell the right to prepare and vend the same in any county in the State.

A mass meeting of German citizens was held at Baltimore on the 20th ult. The object of the meeting is embodied in the call, as follows:

“Germany, our beloved fatherland, has suffered long enough under the despotic rule of thirty-four princes; and it is time that it should free itself from their yoke. France has given the watchword; Germany will answer. It behooves the Germans emigrated to this country to aid their brethren on the other side of the ocean.”

The French and Irish citizens are also preparing for a public demonstration.

The Cincinnati Signal understands the State Journal as a defender of Gen. Taylor in the matter of his imputations against the second Indiana regiment of volunteers. So do we. And we believe if Gen. T. should endeavor to disgrace Indiana in any other way, the Journal would still defend him, if there was any chance of his being President.

An eloquent speech was made by Gen. Cass at a meeting of the citizens of Washington, March 28th, held to celebrate the glorious event of the recent revolution in France. The speech is a free expression of the most liberal political doctrines and sentiments, and is published in the Union. We shall endeavor to copy it.

The French paper, *Courier des Etats Unis*, published at New York, has been sold to a gentleman of New Orleans for fifty thousand dollars. Galliard, the late editor, is to be the Paris correspondent, under the new arrangement.

We learn from a gentleman just from Mexico that JOSEPH CHAPMAN, of the Hancock volunteer company, died at the Falling Bridge in Mexico. He was on his way home.

## U. S. FRIGATE “CUMBERLAND.”

Off Vera Cruz, March 20, 1848.

DEAR FATHER:—I take the opportunity of leisure this evening to write you a few lines. A very large train came down to-day from the city of Mexico: there were nearly five thousand pack mules. The advance came down last evening, and the soldiers looked very much fatigued and weary—officers and men. Gen. Lane also came down on his way home, but I did not see him myself, although I should like to have done so very well. He left here this afternoon in the steamer Edith, for New Orleans, on his way home. The English steamer, Great Western, arrived here on the 17th of this month, and left the same day for Tampico. She is a very large and splendid steamer. It was rumored that Gen. Santa Anna was in Vera Cruz, but I do not think that it was so; in fact, I now know that it is not true.

The Commodore is still away on the expedition to Campeachy, Lagaira, and the ruins of Palenque, but I expect him back in a week or so.

It is said this ship will go home in May with the Commodore: but I should not be surprised if she did not: still, I hope she will.

I have not been sick as yet: two of the Midshipmen have the measles.

Your affectionate Son,  
GEORGE H. CHAPMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF PUEBLA, PUEBLA, MEXICO,

March 10th, 1848.

Messrs. Chapman:—In looking over your papers which arrived by the last mail, I perceive the proceedings of a meeting of the officers of this city, held for the purpose of refusing certain false charges preferred against the troops under Gen. Lane by the bishop of this diocese, accusing them of improper conduct at Chasalla; and as my name is not among the list of officers who signed it, I avail myself of this opportunity to state that I fully concur in all that was said upon that occasion, and that my name would have appeared with those of the other officers, but for indisposition, which prevented my attendance. No officer of the army has made greater exertions to prevent excesses than Gen. Lane; and no troops, in my opinion, have conducted themselves with more propriety than the troops under his command.

I am, very respectfully,  
W. W. MCCOY,  
Major 4th Indiana Regiment.

P. S. Captain Lander requests me to say he was on duty the evening, and consequently could not attend, otherwise his name would have been among them.

WORTHY OF REMEMBRANCE.—The Washington Union publishes the following “from an officer who left the United States a good whig, but who has been converted by the course of his former party into a patriot and a democrat.”

CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 29, 1848.

I send you, herewith, a copy of “*El Monitor Republicano*,” the government paper of Mexico. It contains an article which I have marked, and which I would request you to have translated literally, for the benefit of “folks at home.”

Although the commentary is mortifying to every good man, the text is strong, and will, I hope, sustain you in the course you are pursuing.

Sincerely and truly, in haste, yours, &c.

[Translated from the *El Monitor Republicano*, Jan. 27.]

Messrs. CLAY, CALHOUN, BOTTS, WEBSTER, HOLMES, GALLATIN, VAN DYKE.—These illustrious champions of the Mexican cause have justly gained the gratitude of all our good fellow citizens. At a general meeting of the Philanthropic Society of Mexico, convened on the 26th instant, it was resolved that a manifestation of the society’s feelings of gratefulness be forwarded to these gentlemen, together with their nomination as honorary members, whatever may be the present or future political intercourse between the two nations.

We cheerfully tender our acknowledgments to these magnanimous and generous men, who raise their voice in our favor in the same country where soldiers are levied to war against us. Honor forever to the defenders of the cause of justice and civilization!

Some of the federal whig papers are publishing, with approbation, extracts from the late speech of Webster in the U. S. Senate. The main points of the speech are summed up by the Washington Union as follows:

In the first place, his speech goes out of its way to denounce this war as unnecessary and unconstitutional.

In the second place, he opposes the closing of the war and a pacification with Mexico on the basis of the treaty.

In the third place, he opposes any preparation on our part to continue and keep up the war, and he makes a main objection to such provision of military means to be in the fact, that if the new regiments are raised, the Chief Executive of the nation must appoint their officers!

And in the fourth place, the speech denounces all acquisition of territory as indemnity for the war. Mr. Webster’s first reason for this is, that New Mexico and California, (including, of course, ten degrees of sea-coast, and all the finest harbors on the Pacific) January. Nothing is so cheering and stimulating to the soldier in a foreign land, as to know and believe that his services are appreciated by his friends and countrymen at home; and you may rest assured that they will endeavor to deserve the countenance and confidence of all who patriotically wish them well.”

“We have just received Gov. Whitcomb’s able and valuable message, and are all well pleased with it. He is very much esteemed by the volunteers, and they express their gratification at his recovery from the late accident which had so nearly cost him his life.”

“Gen. Lane arrived yesterday from a fight at Cuernavaca, where he surprised Padre Jarauna and killed 150 of his men, on the 25th of February.

Extracts from a letter to Gov. Whitcomb, dated “Puebla, Mexico, Feb. 20, 1848.”

“A treaty of peace was concluded and signed at Guadalupe, a village near the City of Mexico, on the 2d inst., on the part of Mr. Trist and the Mexican authorities; it only remains for the Mexican Congress and American Senate to confirm it, and this war is at an end; and this will be done, I have but very little doubt. But even then we shall not get home before some time in July.”

“All we fear here is that the inflammatory speeches of the opposition to the war will reach here before the Mexican Congress has been got together and acted on the treaty. I have a body here who know when I tell you that all the tardy movements of the Mexican Congress are brought about by the resolutions of Mr. Vandeyke, of New Jersey, Mr. Thompson, of Indiana, and Mr. Clay’s speech and resolutions. The Mexican prints have struck off thousands of copies, and they are peddled out by huxter boys from one end of the country to the other, as the reflection of the brightest star that has yet shone upon their future hopes and prospects. These things you may be denied; but I have half a dozen copies in my trunk, purchased for the express purpose of taking home to show the people.”

“I might write you of the Temple of Cholula; of three or four snow-capped mountains in sight of this city, and fifty other curiosities of nature in this beautiful country; or I might describe the magnificent splendor of this city—its churches, numerous, cathedra, plaza, theatres, bull-fights, &c., &c.; but of all this you know quite as much from history as I could write, therefore I decline the task.”

“Indiana, and you as her Chief head, may well be proud of the 4th Indiana Regiment, for the men have won undying honors by their gallantry and good discipline.”

## From Mexico.

Extracts from a letter written to Gen. Reynolds, from an officer in the U. S. Army, dated “City of Mexico, March 2nd, 1848.”

“The troops of the 5th (La.) regiment are now in quite good health after having suffered severely from measles and erysipelas. There are but 15 or 16 on the sick list which has numbered as high as 130. Col. Lane has been very attentive to the improvement of the troops in the details of military duty. They now rank very high as to their ability to perform the most intricate evolutions and drill service. No regiment of volunteers in this valley can equal or excel them. Lt. D. C. Rich, of Capt. Hull’s company from Madison, died a few days ago from erysipelas. He was the Regimental Quarter Master, and his loss is severely felt and deeply regretted. He was formerly and repeatedly a member of the Legislature from Jennings county. You have probably seen this, heard of the death of Captain Cary, and of Captain Marshall who was elected to fill the vacancy of Captain Cary.”

Gen. Butler is now the commander-in-chief of the army, in place of Gen. Scott. He is very popular with all the various portions of the army, and is very prompt in the discharge of the laborious duties of the station.”

“The subject of peace is very much agitated, and since the treaty went to Washington, all eyes are directed there to see what will be the views, feelings, requirements and action of our Government. The Government of Peru y Pena is making every exertion to procure a quorum of Congress to act in reference to this treaty, but so far have been unable to get more than about 40 members together, 25 more being required to act definitely. They hope to have a quorum in the middle of March, by which day, we shall probably also hear from Washington. Everything is quiet here, and we are literally ‘reveling in the Halls.’ Gen. Lane has rendered much valuable service in his active exertions to clear the country of the robber hordes of guerrillas, who have infested the adjacent country to the line between here and Vera Cruz. A few days since he paid a visit, very unexpectedly to Orizaba, surprising Santa Anna, who was there on his way to the city, and who, very accidentally made his escape by an hour’s start, in advance of Gen. Lane’s arrival. The military wardrobe of the redoubtable General, fell into the hands of General Lane. All of the private property and the wardrobe of the lady of Santa Anna were gallantly returned to her by Gen. Lane. Since then, he has made another excursion, and at Tulancingo, suddenly came upon Gen. Paredes, who was there, but on the arrival of our force, was secreted, and escaped. His military wardrobe and effects fell into our hands, and he was taken prisoner. Gen. Lane is one of the most industrious and indefatigable Generals in the army, and is ever ready and willing to perform any service or endure any fatigue which may be required of him. He possesses, in an eminent degree, the confidence of Generals Scott and Butler, and is remarkably popular with all the officers and men of the whole army. Gen. Marshall, being the senior Brigadier, is in command of the division lately composed of Gen. Butler, which includes the 50th Indiana volunteers. The 4th regiment under Col. Gorman, is still at Puebla, in good health, and is in a remarkable condition of good discipline, equally as any regular regiment of the army. The rifle regiment, many of whom are Indians, is here; and is the crack regiment of the service. They are in good health, and are the best looking boys I have seen in the city. Capt. Sinton, of the 1st Ohio, has been quite sick, but is now convalescing. He leaves for home on leave, with the train to-morrow. Maj. Caldwell’s large train has just arrived in safety from Vera Cruz.”

“The weather here is very mild and temperate, the spring has fairly opened and vegetation is renewed, although a spring here is essentially different from a spring in the middle and southern portions of the U. S. The winter here is so mild that watermelons and strawberries are found fresh every month of the year; and the roses generally flourish and bloom in the open air in all of the winter months. The pine apple, the orange, the lemon, and many other delicious fruits, unknown in our land, are hanging on the trees, green and ripe in all seasons.

The wheat and barley are nearly ready to harvest, and the spring vegetables abound in the markets.”

“I was much pleased to see the resolutions of compliment to the officers and soldiers in Mexico, adopted by the Democratic convention, on the 8th of January. Nothing is so cheering and stimulating to the soldier in a foreign land, as to know and believe that his services are appreciated by his friends and countrymen at home; and you may rest assured that they will endeavor to deserve the countenance and confidence of all who patriotically wish them well.”

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AMUSING PETITION.—Cassius M. Clay’s claim, pending before Congress, for the loss of all he possessed whilst a prisoner in Mexico, amounts to \$1,373, including a watch, which cost only \$300. The facts of the loss, &c., being, as he says, incapable of positive proof, he refers to their fellow-negro, Hon. J. P. Gaines, and pledges his “sacred word.” The petition is broken to pieces by the overturning of a wagon in Texas, he claims nothing for, as he and the United States suffered alike in that unfortunate land!

The news of the revolution in France was carried by an express locomotive from London to Glasgow, 472 miles, in 10 hours—the average running time being 52 miles an hour.

## Congress.

WASHINGTON, April 3, P. M.

Senate.—A Message was received from the President, communicating a dispatch from Mr. Ruffin, United States minister at France, relative to the recognition of the Provisional Government by our Minister.

The Message and accompanying documents were ordered to be printed.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of Mr. Allen’s resolution, congratulating the French on the establishment of a Republican government.

Upon this resolution an interesting debate sprang up, in which Messrs. Crittenden, Allen, Bagby, Dickenson, and others participated.

The year and years were finally demanded, and they stood as follows: yeas 21, nays 22.

Mr. Crittenden moved to proceed to the order of the day, which was agreed to, and the bill to revise the Supreme Judges from circuit duty for one year was taken up, and a long debate ensued, in which Messrs. Cass, Benton, and Crittenden participated.

The bill was then laid aside, and on motion of Mr. Hannegan the Senate went into executive session, and soon afterwards adjourned.

House.—An hour was spent taking a vote to suspend the rules in order to take up business out of order.

Finally, a resolution congratulating France on the overthrow of the Monarchy was introduced and considered.

Mr. Duer moved to refer the resolution to a select committee of one from each State.

Mr. Donald made a motion to lay it on the table, which was decided in the negative.

A long and exciting discussion on the resolution then ensued, in the course of which slavery was introduced, and the debate continued until a late hour, when on motion the House adjourned.

PUEBLA, MEXICO, February 20th 1848.

To the Editors of the State Sentinel:

DEAR SIR: This is certainly a delightful climate. The months of December and January have passed off pleasantly. The change in the temperature during those two months has been just sufficient and no more, to mark the change of the season. The leaves of some of the trees have fallen an offering to the “God of the rolling year.” The pulse of vegetable life stood still and “nature made a pause” to gather fresh energy for the coming year. The wings of the humming bird have not been chilled, nor have the notes of the robins been suspended during the winter months. The thermometer standing at from six to five to seventy, exhibiting an uniformity of temperature unknown in the Western States.

This city is still garrisoned by a force of about three thousand men—the 4th Indiana and the 4th Ohio, together with a detachment of artillery and cavalry form this force. Col. Gorman, since the departure of Gen. Lane for the city of Mexico, has command of the brigade and is the military force of the city; while Col. Childs exercises civil and military jurisdiction over the department of Puebla. The good order and security both to person and property that now prevail, is the best comment that can be made upon the vigilance and skill of these officers; and the discipline and subordination of the men. Courts martial are occasionally held, in which all grievances are redressed and crime punished.

Every one gets justice speedily without delay; fully without cost, and cheerfully without price. But as the freeman told me, “justice is the only thing that some of them don’t want.” Complaints will be made against the best regulated governments; not excepting pure democracy itself. The health of the troops is improving. Two months ago there were five hundred men in the Hospital. Now there are five hundred. The government provides amply for the soldiers: supplying them through its Commissaries with the “best the country affords,” the following being the principal items in the bill of fare: Fresh and salt beef, pork and mutton, flour, rice, cornmeal and beans, sugar, coffee, candles, soap, salt and vinegar. All these articles being the growth or manufacture of the city or surrounding country, the arrival of so many troops has created a demand for, and an increased price of many articles: so far the war has been a benefit to the Mexicans. The government has also provided comfortable quarters for the soldiers: instead of their being lodged in churches of splendid architecture, and extensive dimensions, where they can hold silent converse with the prophets, apostles, saints and martyrs of former ages; so you see that both their present and future welfare is duly attended to. They cannot say with Alexander Selkirk, on the Island of Juan Fernandez, that “the sound of a church-going bell these valleys and rocks never heard”! no, this can never be said of the city of Puebla; the facts prove quite the reverse; only think of some seventy-five or eighty churches, each of which has a mass of soldiers, and a fine band of music, and bells for each of the bells of the largest calibre and most sonorous metal, making in all the respectable number of nine hundred, which on great occasions, on small occasions, and on all occasions are taxed to their utmost volume of sound, and the way the Mexicans can ring them is “not slow”; they can do any thing else. Whatever some people may think or say about Mexican bells in churches, to me at least, they are not half so interesting as our Western bells, either on or out of churches; where they can hold silent converse with the prophets, apostles, saints and martyrs of former ages; so you see that both their present and future welfare is duly attended to. 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